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A
TRA GI-COMIC
DIALOGUE,

BETWEEN THE
GHOST of an A-----l,
AND THE
SUBSTANCE of a G-----l:

Shewing the DIFFERENCE between

A CHOP and a POP.

By an ANTIGALLICAN.

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A
T R A G I - C O M I C
D I A L O G U E,

B E T W E E N T H E
G H O S T of an A-----l and the S U B S T A N C E
of a G-----l, &c.

T W A S much about the dreadful Time
When lying, scribbling Sons of Rhime,
Affirm, that Ghosts and Gobblings come
From Water, Air, or Earthly Tomb;
The Time when Noise itself is dumb:
When Silence, hov'ring o'er the Plain,
Affrights the poor benighted Swain;
When Darkness, like a Chimney-sweeper,
Admits no Light from *Luna's* Peeper,
And horrid Dreams perplex the Sleeper;

A 2

When

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When tripping, dancing, skipping Faries,
Renew their Routes, and odd Vagaries ;
When erst the subtle Wife, I trow,
Her Spouse's Side crept cloſer to,
And wak'd the Goodman *John*, I ween,
To tell him —— You know what I mean :
In Fact, 'twas then, 'twixt Twelve and One ;
And now my Night Description's done.

When *S*———e, on the Pillow laid,
'Stead of a B——k, his deſtin'd Head,
Each varied Attitude he try'd,
And roll'd about from Side to Side :
His Eyes he clos'd, but clos'd in vain ;
For *Morpheus* ruſh'd from thence amain :
His Bed (tho' ſoſteſt Down) grew harder
Than Stones in Gentleman's Coach-yard are ;
Each Feather, it contain'd within,
Was to a Needle turn'd, or Pin ;
To Razors, Penknives, Bodkins, Sciſſars,
Beſides a hundred Things like theſe, Sirs ;

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At length he rose, and walk'd about;
Then try'd the Bed, now in, now out,
No Peace he finds, or up or down,
Reflection reign'd, and Sleep was flown.

Thus, in his perturbed Breast,
A thousand various Thoughts contest;
When, Lo! prophetic of his Doom,
A sudden Tremor shook the Room;
And, all at once, in White array'd,
Rush'd in a meagre, ghastly *Shade*.

Struck with his Eye-balls dreadful glare;
He cry'd, — Who art thou? quick! declare!

A. I am, the hollow Ghost reply'd,
Poor B---g, who, hapless, fled and dy'd.

G. Then what have I to do with you?
Thou canst not say — I ever flew.

A. I grant ye what you say is true:

Indeed

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Indeed your L—d—p never fled ;
But yet you'll surely lose your ****.

G. 'Tis false, Sir, — 'tis a damned Lye:
I lose my ****! No, No, not I.

A. Sir, you may take it on my Word:

G. It cannot be, Sir, — I'm a L—d,
A Fav'rite of my R—l Master,
And soon can hush up this Disaster.

A. Aye, but you've stained that Master's Honour ;
Nor only stain'd, but trampled on her:
Your Ground, we grant, you firmly stood;
But, O my L—d! had you pursu'd
The Foe, when once their Force was routed,
The Vict'ry then had ne'er been doubted.

G. Why, Sir, they founded a Retreat,
And were, to all Appearance, beat:

Why

A Tragi-Comic DIALOGUE, &c. 7

Why then, Sir, shou'd I be so vain,
To beat 'em o'er and o'er again:
In Fact, it wou'd ha'been a Meanness,
A paltry Action, past Forgiveness,
For me t'have knock'd 'em o'the Head,
Who were, poor Dogs, already dead,

A. Ah, Sir, had Fortune deign'd that I
Had such an Opportunity,
T'have seen the Foe by others beaten,
How I'd ha'mawld 'em in retreating!
But I was Chief of all Command;
All was expected at my Hand:
I had no Adm'ral over me,
Who made the Rascals first to flee,
And then t'invite me to the Chace,
To Glory and to Fame's Embrace *.

G. Admitting, Sir, myself inferior,
Beneath some other proud Superior,

Note, The Reader may object to the *Substance* being so familiar with the *Ghost*; but as it is plain they are always very harmless, I see no great Occasion for *Distance* in this Point.

'Tis

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'Tis plain, Sir, that I wou'd have fought;
But what had I to do, ---- Pray What?
Could those, who then were run away,
Turn back again, and win the Day:
Cou'd those, who on the Field lay slain,
Rise up, and battle it again:
There was no Glory left for me,
To follow what was fled, d'ye see:
Give me the Deed, tho' small the Prize,
Where Death and horrid Danger lies;
Then, Sir! —— or else my Heart says wrong,
Egad, I'd pay away ding dong.

A. Well said, my little Bully Hector,

G. Aye, that I wou'd, my noble Spectre.
But, Sir, as You and I are met,
We'll have a little Talk as yet,
Some Conversation, —— *tete a tete*

A. Be quick, for I must soon be gone.

G. Come, draw a Chair, and set ye down.

A. Ghosts.

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A. Ghosts never sit, I'd have ye know,
We always stand upright, or so
We stalk, majestic, to and fro.

G. Then, I presume, you'd rather stand : —
I'll tell you, Sir, P——e F———d
And I, you know, were in Command :
Now he, Sir being fond of Fame,
(On Me, poor Me, wou'd lay the Blame ;)
Greedy as Miser of his Pelf,
Had won the Battle first Himself;
Then, when there nought was left to do,
Sent me his Orders, to pursue :
Mean while comes G——by, all o'Sweat,
Full gallop, in a dev'lish Pet,
“ Pursue ! he cries, Pursue ! ”——For What ?
I quick reply'd, don't be so hot,
You raw and unexperienc'd Fool :
“ My Lord (says he) you're much too cool.”
But I, who knew the Art of War
Superior to the M——s far,

B

Main-

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Maintain'd my Ground, and let 'em know,
I scorn'd to fight a flying Foe.

A. Ha! Ha! Ha! — 'Gad, did ye so *?

G. I'faith I did. — A. Well, Sir, What then?

G. Egad, they knock'd me off Amain.
The M——s too, as hot as Mustard,
Wou'd fain have eat me, like a Custard:
But I, Sir, valu'd not discarding,
No more, Sir, than I'd mind a Farthing.
But let me ask a trifling Question,
A certain Point, which you know best on:
Suppose the filthy Mob should do
By me as once they did by you;
Or, that the Scoundrels of the Quill
Should dare to use me at their Will,
And, with their damn'd Lampoons and Satires,
Their Songs, and Things of such-like Natures,

* Tho' we have no Authority from History to make a Ghost laugh;
yet I think, for once, the Public may dispense with it, especially as it is
something new, and upon a merry Occasion.

With

A Tragi-Comic DIALOGUE, &c. II

With Prinselfers and Gravers join
To maul this Character of mine,
And vilely stick me up and down,
In ev'ry Shop about the Town,
The Butt of ev'ry gaping Clown;
What must I say, what must I do;

A. Get Authors, and Engravers too:
The Dogs are poor, wou'd grave or write,
Or worse, to get a Penny by't.
Search ev'ry lurking Corner, where
Distress and Poverty appear,
You'll find some scribbling Author there:
And then, if you should want a Graver,
Or twenty, them you soon may have, Sir,
Who, bless 'em first but with a Crown,
They'd raise your Honour and Renown,
As high as e're your L---d---p pleases;
So spur 'em as they go, ---- with Pieces*.

* *Three Pound Twelves*, to be sure, would be very acceptable, either
to an Author or Engraver: — But much less may do very well.

G. But

G. But then, suppose my Case, like your's,
Admits no Remedy that cures:
Suppose they on each Sign-post, high,
Shou'd hang me up in Effigy,
And burn me, ---- as 'tis Ten to One
But what they wou'd e're they had done.

A. Sir, you must have your Mobs about,
To bluster, threat, and make a Rout;
To these, Strong Beer and Gin may do;
There is no need for Money too;
And, as the Art of Boxing's dead,
Them let the mighty *Buckhorse* head.

G. But, after all, shou'd I, my friend,
Be brought to an untimely End;
How foolish I shou'd look at last,
My Life at stake, my Purpose crost,
My Money squander'd here and there:
Why then I shou'd be ne'er the near.

A. Think

A. Think for the Best, the Worst will come;
Prepare for Dooms-day, and for doom;
Thy dreaded Stroke—is but one Chop;
Mine was a Comfortable Pop.
And tho' you now may think it hard,
I th' End 'twill prove a sweet Reward;
Believe me, Sir, you'll dread no more
The Stroke, when once 'tis done and oe'r,
Than of the Nipping of a Flea,
Or other Animalculæ.

G. But say, my friendly Spectre, say;
A'nt mine, d'ye think, the easiest Way?

A. O much the easiest, by far;
Let but the 'Squire but take good Care,
And do his Work a little neatly,
Tipp him, He'll touch you off completely.

G. And, d'ye think I ought to die?

A. Aye, surely, Sir, as well as I:

C

And

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And therefore make yourself quite easy,
 Nor let the Gibes of Authors tease ye:
 I stood the Rhyming Scoundrel Train,
 And saw 'em out, and out again;
 Exhausted all the paltry Stores
 Of those inver'rate Sons of Whores;
 I help'd to make the Rascals eat,
 No B—g, Egad, they'd had no Meat:
 The Rogues were jolly then, and sleek,
 And fed on Capons ev'ry Week;
 Who liv'd before on bak'd-Ox-Cheek.
 Since then they've got so lank and thin,
 Ther're nothing now but Bones and Skin,
 'Tis time that they shou'd eat again;
 Now you must Treat, be theirs the Gain.
 So never think upon the Cafe,
 But bid the Rascal kiss your A---fs.

This said, the Sounding Bell struck One,
 When quick away the Ghost was gone,
 And left his L--d---p all alone.

F I N I S.

9
AN
A P O L O G Y
FOR
MINISTERS OF STATE.
OR, THE
R U D I M E N T S
OF
MODERN PATRIOTISM.
WHEREIN
POPULAR PREJUDICES
ARE
IMPARTIALLY CONSIDER'D.

Humbly Addressed to
Every Lover of the BRITISH CONSTITUTION.

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AN
A P O L O G Y
FOR
MINISTERS of STATE.

SURELY no Class of Mankind receives worse Treatment than *Ministers of State*; whose *Apologist* I become, with the sole View of conducing somewhat to the *Publick Good*, by doing common Justice to *Them*. Many of my *Honest Countrymen* seem not to be duly acquainted with this *Character*; and are therefore too weakly guarded against a *Cabal*, who, under the specious Pretence of *Patriotism* (the old Stalking-Horse of *Faction*) but, in Reality, for Purposes so base one cannot expect them to own, have most industriously attempted to fix an *Odium* on it: Not by *Proofs*, or solid *Arguments*; but, contrarywise, by applying to *Passions* and *Prejudices*, which make Fools of us all, when they grew too headstrong for the *Judgment*, as they too often do, especially when assisted by *artful Fomentation*; and this they are lavishly supplied with.

The *English* Maxim, *The King can do no Wrong*, very justly throws every Imputation of Error upon Those in Authority under Him: And, doubtless, it is a Misfortune, that *no Protestant Ministry* can be *infallible*; but, as this is the Case of *Private Men* too, it is certainly the Interest, as well as Duty, of every one who wishes well to his *Country, King, Himself, and Posterity*, to consider strictly all *Political Acts* before he presumes to censure them: And, if he be a *True Briton*, I need not caution him of preferring *Publick Good* to *Private*.

It is every Day's Experience, that we find some Difficulty, even in *thinking coolly* on what proceeds from a Person who is not agreeable to us; how idly soever the Dislike may have been founded. With what Reluctance do we prevail upon our-selves to *relish* the best, and most advantageous Things coming from such an *Hand*? How easily do we impose on our Understanding, by this *Prejudication*? But, what greater Affront can be offered to the Dignity of our Nature; and how detrimental may this Practice prove to our Interest? Do we justly pride ourselves in being *Free*? Is this *Island of Liberty* the Envy of all Nations? Let us assert our Right, and scorn a *Slavery of Mind*, which is the *Basest*, because it is *Voluntary*.

We are gone a surprising Length into the Schemes of *Malecontents*. I fear, should I say many of us have been so egregiously infatuated, as to quarrel with *Men*, instead of
Things;

Things; nay, to have made a Compliment of our *Eyes*, to Persons, who can no other way make themselves considerable, but by leading us about *Blindfold*; it would be a melancholy Truth.

For Honour's sake, my *Countrymen*, examine thoroughly, and judge impartially: Know your *Happiness*, and zealously preserve it. Must this inestimable Treasure be wantonly sacrificed to unreasonable *Caprice*? What do we *want*, which the *Heroes of Dissention*, were they what they wish themselves, could possibly give us? Should we fancy any Defect, pray, what Surety can we have that these formerly *Right Honourable Persons*, when the Turn shall be served, for which they so assiduously court us, will not *despise* us, for wanting Discretion to know when we were well, as heartily as they now *laugh* at us, for being so easily cajoled out of our Reason? *Posterity* will certainly insult our Memory, if we are capable of mistaking the *Invectives* of the late *V——t B——e* on the present *Administration*, for *serious* Things; or should so widely misconstrue the Intention of *Him*, and His *Worthy Associates*, as to become the *Dupes* of an *Hot-headed, Desperate Party*, who strive to make themselves *infamously Glorious* by our *Destruction*.

Let us see what manner of Person a *Minister of State* ought to be; and consider a few of the almost infinite *Cares* and *Difficulties* he must grapple with: From hence we shall be enabled to judge more justly of his *Actions*; and inclined

clined to pay the proper Respect due to a *Good Minister*.

As to his *Qualifications*.

This is a most spacious Field. It may be said, in *general Terms*, that every *Virtue* is necessary to *Guard*, and the utmost Extent of *useful Knowledge* to *Instruct*, him. *He* who sub-ordinately inspects the Whole, must sufficiently understand every Part. *He* ought to be intimately acquainted with, and steadily and indefatigably pursue the *true Interest* of his *Country*. To be a little more *particular*—*He* must study, and be very well versed in, all its *Rights* (Religious and Civil) *Laws*, *Power*, *Trade*, *Leagues*, *Engagements*, and *Grievances*; with the Means, Necessity, and Utility, of redressing, continuing, encreasing, altering, and preserving them, respectively. — *He* should know the most *easy* and *effectual Methods* of raising the *necessary Supplies* for the Honour and Defence of the Realm: And, as far as his Province extends, see them *rightly* applied. *He* must be a *Faithful*, as well as *Able Counsellor*, to his *King*; which he can never be, unless he is an *Hearty Friend* to his *Fellow-Subjects*.—*He* needs consummate *Prudence*, to foresee; and *Wisdom*, to arm against distant *Events*.—Must be *intrepid* in his *Duty*—Have a *clear, penetrating Head*, and an *upright Heart*—And be an Absolute Governor of his *Passions*.

This *Description*, tho' it be little more than the *Out-line* of this *Great Character*, is ready to make one cry out, *Who is sufficient for these Things?* Here is *Business* enough to employ the
most

most *Exalted Faculties*; and harrafs the strongest *Mind* and *Body*: But, I think, very little Cause for *Envy*.

Admitting there may be a Man thus excellently qualified; if we attend him thro' a small Part of his Duty, we shall presently discern the Impossibility of his pleasing *All*; unless we suppose every Individual a *disinterested Lover of his Country*, and of sufficient *Capacity* to determine what is most beneficial for *it* (which is a Concession I have not Complaisance enough to make) yet *These*, how few soever, are the only Persons whose Approbation a *Good Minister* must court.

I am no bold Intruder into the *Arcana* of *State*; but shall confine myself to such plain Matters as every body will understand, and, I hope, agree with me in, when they see them in a true Light, divested of that Glare which has deceived many well-meaning Men.

To instance in *Taxes*; an Affair every Man is much interested in.

Here, suppose it clearly demonstrated to the *Ministry*, (nay, to every *private Man* in the Kingdom) that the Wisdom and Caution of the *Legislature* is prevented and evaded, in the due raising any *Impost* or *Tax*. It is, beyond Question, *Their* Duty to attempt a Remedy; because every *Deficiency* of *necessary Funds* must be *supplied*——Whatever is subtracted from one Branch of the Revenue, by *Fraud*, must be added, or made up, in another; and, which is extreamly hard, and unjust, *Honest Men* must atone for *Dishonest* ones.

ones. If this be not a *Grievance*, which a *Good Ministry* should exert themselves to redress; I am grossly mistaken.

The *Means* come next into Consideration. These are to be *effectual*; and the most *easy* and *agreeable* to the *Subject*, ought to have preference; but *Private Conveniency* must always give Place to *Publick Advantage*. It hath been already premised, that we are not to expect *Infallibility* where it never was pretended; and therefore we ought not *implicitly* to fall in with every *Scheme* of any *Ministry*; the *Best* has been mistaken. But after They have revolved every probable *Expedient*, and find the Distemper so mischievous and obstinate as to require a *Remedy*, perhaps the *least desirable*; what is to be done? Are They worthy of Blame, for offering *This* to the *Legislature* who have *several times* prescribed it, in Cases *less desperate*? If a *Ministry* should invent and promote *Oppression*, or even *inconvenient Methods* of *Taxation*, where they are *unnecessary*; this would be attempting to establish a kind of Iniquity by a Law: But where they have not deviated from the Rules of Justice and Prudence; nor proceeded without numerous *Precedents*; and since, in Default of better Means of *Prevention*, the *Evil* continues, and, it may be, encreases; can any thing but *Malice*, or, at best, *Ignorance*, vilify their Conduct?

Private Interest is at perpetual War with *Publick*; and never wants *considerable Bodies of Men* to take the Alarm: But this Hostility

is so unnatural, that Those who keep up the Discord, are ashamed to own the Banner they fight under. The Truth is, the *former* of these, by being properly subservient, preserves, and augments itself; whereas intestine Jars must inevitably impair, if not destroy, *both*.

It may not be amiss to reflect a little on what of this kind has happened within our Memory. Whilst the *Passions* are clamorous, *Reason* cannot be heard; but till we are pleased to give it Audience, and Obedience too, we are not likely to contribute much towards our *Advantage* or *Credit*. If any of us, in the *Zeal* of *Frenzy*, have acted in a misbecoming Manner towards Those who deserved better, or have been seduced into a Disesteem of Men who justly claim Respect; 'tis indispensably our Duty to make the best Reparation in our Power. Obstinate Perseverance in Error, beside the bad Consequences resulting from it, carries much more Shame along with it, than an Acknowledgment that we have been mistaken.

Let us now turn our Eyes toward the *Enemies* which the most *Able* and *Valuable Ministry* will always have to encounter; and some of the innumerable *Machinations* practised to make Impressions on the *People* to their Disadvantage.

The Enemies of a Good Ministry.

These are all the *Disaffected* and *Discontented*.—All who fancy they have Merit, when they have none:—And such as suppose

B

what

what Merit they have, not sufficiently rewarded. As these cannot expect Satisfaction under a *Wise*, and *Honest Ministry*, they must therefore, consistently with their Views, labour a Change for the *Worse*.

Out of this *Numerous Herd*, who will doubt, but that we might be abundantly furnished with most *Virtuous* and *Well-qualified Statesmen*? But, I am apprehensive, each Man's Demands will run so high, (if one may guess from their present Pretensions) that Affairs may remain a long Time *Unadministred*, before these Gentry will be pleased to place themselves. Quarrels about the Point of Precedency would ill become Men who profess no other Ambition, but to serve the *Publick*. Therefore, suppose they should, before we proceed any farther, inform us who shall be *Prime Minister*. This may deserve some little Deliberation: Tho', if my Opinion were of any Weight in a Matter of so great Consequence, *One*, who has been a *flagrant Traitor* to his *Country*; and makes even *Mercy* and *Pardon* the Instruments of promoting the most execrable Purposes; may, for any thing I see to the contrary, do our Business as *faithfully* and *completely* as *Another*, who has so broke thro', and laught at, the most sacred Leagues of *Friendship*, as to render himself unworthy the Society of *Honest Men*; and, the better to qualify himself for the Performance of what he hath taken in Hand, has dared to offer high Indignity to his *Sovereign*. 'Tis certain, these Candidates have Both deserved much of their

their *Party* ; and gone unaccountable Lengths to serve *It*, or please *Themselves* : *Allegiance, Honour, Justice, Gratitude, Truth* ; in short, every thing which stood in their Way, have been so undauntedly surmounted, that I cannot help wishing most heartily, *They* may one Day receive their due, tho' long deferred, Reward.

While *Government* exists, *Interest, Ambition*, and other equally good *Motives*, will keep alive a *Party* to disturb it ; and the *Leaders* will be sure to christen themselves *Patriots*. I do not reckon a candid and discreet ; nay, the most minute *Enquiry*, into the *Conduct* of Those concerned in the *Administration*, among these *Disturbances* : Far otherwise. I am certain, a *Wise* and *Good Ministry* will be glad of, and encourage all useful Hints given them : The pointing out past Mistakes might be of future Service. But, what must we call *malicious and groundless Cavils* with just and right Measures, *dogmatical Assertions*, that every Step is *erroneous* or *worse*, *Defamation, Invitations to Assassination and Sedition, propagating Disaffection* ; and repeated outrageous *Libels* (to give them the gentlest Name) on *Majesty itself* ? A considerate Man may easily see what this Sort of Procedure is calculated for ; it is much harder to account for the Reception it has found. This deserves some Attention in regard the Effects arising from it may be very dangerous. If the *Servants, or Ministers of King and Country*, are industriously slandered, and, by every dishonest Art, endeavoured to

be lessen'd in the Opinion of the *Publick*; what Fortitude and Patience are sufficient to carry Them thro' their Duty? Indeed, how is it possible They should discharge it, in its full Scope, when, in almost every Instance, Impediments are thrown in Their Way, and maintained beyond the last Glimpse of *Reason* or *Decency*? To such boundless Extravagancies are Men hurried by *Pride* and *Envy*!

The LIBERTY of the PRESS is none of the least *valuable* amongst Us; and, I hope, it will be always preserved: But, such Abuse hath been made of it, as most conspicuously distinguishes the Lenity of *His Majesty's* Government, and affords shameful Instances of Licentiousness which no Reign can parallel. I desire never to see this *Propagator* of *Knowledge* under *Inspection* or *Restriction*; nor do I apprehend any great Damage from the Latitude allowed; with this *Proviso*, that my Countrymen will take due Care to *inspect* thoroughly for Themselves. We are not likely to want Employment of this kind: We have *Weekly*, and other *extraordinary* Supplies of *Libels*, too well adapted to pervert the *Judgment* of the *Unwary*, and undermine their *Loyalty*. Instead of *Proof*, we meet with *bold Assertions*; and since *Reason* cannot be brought over to the *Party*, the *Passions* are raised and kept afloat. If these *heterodox* Maxims, properly pursued, don't Rout the *Ministry*, I can't tell what will.

I shall now point out, and remark on, some of the CAPITAL ATTEMPTS of the ANTI-MINISTERIALISTS, which have been always practised, and will continue so to be, whilst we are an *Happy People*; or have any thing worth quarrelling for; and by which, the *best Ministry* may be insulted from the *Press*, and too many *Good Subjects* seduced from their *Duty* and *Interest*, unless they carefully avoid the Delusion.

If the *Ministry*, in attempting to promote the *Interest* of their *Country*, propose any thing, which can be render'd *Unpopular*; how is the Trumpet sounded to *Faction*? The most *invidious Turns* are given to the *best Intentions*.—*Publick Utility* is converted into Augmentation of the *Power* of the *Crown*; and other equally absurd Misrepresentations fly about. If the Point doth not succeed, or is dropt; what horrid Comments are made! What ridiculous Triumphs ensue?

Let us coolly examine this Conduct; and admit, till we find out *our own Blunder*, that the *Ministry* have been *mistaken*: What is to be justly inferred from thence? Why, that they are meer Men, and consequently not exempt from Error. I am persuaded They are well acquainted with Themselves, and have Candor enough to acknowledge This: But, alas! This will not satisfy: They must at the same Time subscribe to the *Omniscience* of Those who are pleased to dictate to Them; and stand charged with such *black Designs*, as could only proceed from Their *Heads* and *Hearts* who violently long for *Power* to display

play Their rare Abilities of doing *Mischief*. It is a great Misfortune to these *unhappy Men*, that the *Ministry* should give them so little Opportunity of gratifying their inveterate Spleen. But, *Cause* or no *Cause*, they must vent, or burst.

And since People cannot for ever be imposed on by *false Representations* of particular *Facts*, Recourse is had to *General Topicks*; such as

PLACES, or POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT. Without doubt, there may be some Charms in Them, which those who are out of Them ardently sigh for; and therefore are implacable toward their Rivals. We are desir'd to believe, that a *Place* will metamorphose the most *Virtuous* and *Publick Spirited* Man, into a *Tool* of the *Court*, and an Enemy to his *Country*. A very modest Request, this, equally full of Reason and Loyalty. They will, I suppose, allow some few Exceptions to the Rule, that they may not include their *dear selves* (who have retained every Jot of *Integrity* they could ever lay Claim to) nor affront such of their *good Friends*, who, tho' otherwise very valuable Men, have been made Their *Bubbles*. But this Notion is chimerical. *Places* or *Employments* must be filled; and none but *Able* and *Honest* Men, are worthy to occupy them. A *Wise Prince* will, undoubtedly, bestow them on such Persons as he is satisfied are *well Affected* to *Himself*; but it is impossible they can be so, unless they study to promote the *Interest* of their *Country*, of which

which he is the *Political Father*. Every reasonable Man will admit, that the Interest of a *Good Prince*, and His *People*, are inseparable; from whence, it undeniably follows, that a *Place* doth not disqualify its Possessor to be a *Friend* to his *Country*. I am sorry there should be any Occasion to inculcate so obvious a Truth.

History, indeed, furnishes us with too many *Ill*, or *Weak Princes*, and *Worse Ministers*; and where the *Former* have mistaken their *True Interest*, the *Latter* have joined their Assistance, till *Publick Rights* have been violated, and *Private* trampled on; till *Liberty* and *Property* have fallen a Prey to *Arbitrary Power*. But who in his right Senses, because there have been *Bad Ministers*, will thence infer, *All* are so? Or who, but the most remorseless Incendiaries, can suggest, that *His Most Sacred Majesty*, whose *Wisdom* and *Justice* are every where revered; whose *Supream Prudence* has stopt *Desolation* in its full Career, and, in all Human Probability, restored, and established, the *Peace* of *distracted Europe*; whose *Reign* affords no Act for the most invenomed Malice to fix on; whose *Personal* and *Regal Virtues* are too Glorious for my humble Pen to describe; should want, or would employ, any Man whose *Principles* or *Practice*, deviated from the Standard of His Majesty's *Government*, the *Interest* and *Happiness* of His *Subjects*?

It is insinuated, that *Places*, or *Employments*, do so inviolably attach Mankind to the *Crown*,
that

that they are obliged to pursue all Measures agreeable to the *Prince's* Views. This amounts to no more, than that *Princes* may have bad Intentions, and find Persons to promote them. But, what has this to do with our present happy Situation? The *Gentlemen* don't choose to speak out their Meaning plainly; I'll venture a Guess at it. These Hints are to lead you into a Supposition, that the Persons who send them among you, are the only *Honest* and *Wise Men* in your Country—That Affairs cannot be rightly conducted, until the sole Management be vested in *Them*—That, unless *Places* are filled as *They* could wish them, you must expect to pay *Taxes* for your *Defence* and *Service*, as your Fore-fathers have done; and be *slavishly* content with the *religious Preservation* of your *Liberties* and *Properties*; and the utmost Endeavours of a *Wise* and *Good King*, to encrease your *Glory* and *Happiness*. But, if any Means can be invented (no matter what) to lift *Them* to the Helm; then, you shall have—*They* must tell you *what*: for, truly, I don't know any thing we *want* more, than *Hearts to enjoy what we have*.

What pity it is, that some of the most zealous of these *Patriots*, cannot, consistent with the *Honour* of *His Majesty*, and the *Good* of the *Kingdom*, be admitted *Courtiers*: how easily then, might the Clamour be stilled? But, alas! since they must remain *Exiles*, eternal War is proclaimed; and, for want of *real Objects*, what *Bugbears* do their disturbed
Imagi-

Imaginations raise, to exercise their *Quixotism* upon?

We have been talked to, so seemingly in earnest, about the omnipotent *Influence* of the *Crown* over its *Ministers* and *Officers*, *Civil* and *Military*, that the Reader will forgive my expatiating a little on this Head. *These* are, certainly, a considerable Body of Men. Perhaps, our wise *Regulators* may be of Opinion, that every Subject is honest and publick spirited enough to lay by, and bring his Proportion of the necessary *Taxes*, *Duties* and *Imposts*, into the Receipt of the *Exchequer*, or some other *Repository* for the *Publick Money*; and to stay there, and apply it, as the Wisdom of the *Legislature* shall direct: As also, that what *Soldiers* and *Sailors* are annually voted necessary for our Defence, may command themselves. This *Utopian* Scheme put into Practice, would be a great Saving of the Nation's Money; and we should, doubtless, astonish the World with our Oeconomy. But till it shall be deemed improper, to have any Superior and Subordinate Persons set apart, to *superintend the Revenue*, or command our *Forces*; I don't find it made out, that any Branch of Government, is burthened with one unnecessary, or superfluous *Officer*.

But our *displaced Patriots* would have it thought, that all these *Place-Men*, where they are not incapacitated by Law, must *Vote*, within Doors, and without, as the *Crown* shall be pleased to direct. If this monstrous *Improbability* was admitted, before any Detri-
C ment

ment could arise to the Publick, from their so doing, it must be Traitorously supposed, (but why, no-body knows) that the *Crown* has an *opposite Interest* to the *People*: and then, consequently, all These Men are *Villains* or *Fools*. A most *Unchristian*, as well as *Impudent*, *Assertion*!

Some of the *lowest Species* of *Officers*, they say, are so poor, as to subsist intirely on their *petty Places*; and therefore are necessitated to do as they are bid by their Superiors. The plain Answer to this Charge, is; We must be very uncharitable to suppose *Poverty* can make all these, *Rogues*, if They were desired so to be. But were even that possible, Their *Low Ability* denies them Power of doing *High Mischief*.

What would the *Crafty Men of Gotham* be pleased to have? The *Nomination*, I presume, of all *Ministers* and *Officers*; with Power to *continue, displace* and *model* Them, as should be found necessary for their Purposes. (Or the MINISTERIAL POWER, as a remarkably odd-headed Writer has lately phrased it.) This once obtained, notwithstanding the *Dependency*, and other Motives, now so highly complained of, must equally continue under their *new Masters*; we should hear that these *Place-Men* were all, on a trice, converted from *Villainous* and *Foolish Tools*, into *Honest* and *Wise Gentlemen*; ay, and *Patriots* too.

Here I shall be asked, why several *Officers* of the *Crown* are by Law *incapacitated* to sit in the *House of Commons*? And why accepting

a Place should disqualify a Member till *recho-sen*: Whether the supposed Influence of the Crown arising from *Dependency*, was not the Reason of such *Restriction*?

I answer (with the justest Deference to the Sense of the *Legislature*, whose Pardon I implore if I err inadvertently;) that I humbly apprehend, the *Dependency* on the Crown was the Occasion of those *Exclusions*. But, I think it undeniable, that as the Rights of King and People have been solemnly *Adjusted*, *Balanced*, and *Secured*, in the most *Equitable* and *Beneficial* Manner the Wisdom of our own, and, perhaps, any other Nation, could suggest; it cannot be the Part of a *Good Subject*, call him *Patriot*, or by what other popular Name soever, to insinuate, that such *Dependency*, as is only *consequential* from the just and established *Prerogative*, or *Right of Majesty*, is an *undue Influence*.

Every Member of the House of Commons, who sits there, for any Purpose contrary to, or inconsistent with, the Service of his Country, is not only a Betrayer of the great Trust reposed in him, by those whom he immediately represents; but also, as far as his Power extends, an Enemy to the *Constitution*. But, methinks, it is strange Doctrine, that a Man's serving the *Publick*, ought to be a Reason against his *Prince's* employing him. I should rather apprehend it a Foundation for Complaint, if a *Prince* barred Persons His *Royal Favours*, meerly because they were thought worthy by His *People* to guard their *Liberty*.

Nothing can be more ridiculously absurd, than to pretend a Zeal for our *happy Constitution*, and at the same Time be labouring to invade the *Rights* of an *essential Part* of it. Such *Concessions*, either on Behalf of the *Crown* or *People*, as have entered into the Frame of our *Constitution*, ought most religiously to bind both *Parties*: *Mutual Consent* only can make an *Alteration*; that *private Man*, in my poor Opinion, must have a very great, or very little, Understanding, who can conceive *One* for the *Better*. But, 'tis plain, we have such *extraordinary* and *high-conceited Persons* among Us. I will take the Liberty of quoting a few Lines from Mr. *Dryden's Absalom and Achitophel*, which contain very salutary Advice to these *Innovators*.

- “ All other Errors but disturb a State ;
- “ But *Innovation* is the Blow of Fate.
- “ If *ancient Fabricks* nod, and threat to fall,
- “ To patch the Flaws, and buttress up the Wall,
- “ Thus far 'tis *Duty*; but here fix the Mark ;
- “ For all beyond it is to touch our *Ark*.
- “ To change *Foundations*, cast the *Frame* anew,
- “ Is work for *Rebels* who base Ends pursue :
- “ At once divine and humane Laws controul ;
- “ And mend the *Parts* by Ruin of the *Whole*.

PENSIONS are terrible Mortifications to many *angry, disappointed Gentlemen*. *Royal Bounties*, they tell us, demand a Return: No doubt of it. But what kind of Return? Why, the same exactly with Acts of *private Generosity*. A grateful Man will serve his Benefactor
with

with his best Endeavours : But *Gratitude* requires no one to break in upon the indispensable Principles of *Honour* or *Honesty*. None but *Knaves* will be obliged on such Terms. What then must the *Benefactor* be, who wants their Service! Every *True Briton* will reflect on *Innuendos* of this kind with the utmost Indignation ; yet, this is the plain *English* of our *Mock-Patriots*, when they would stigmatize *Those* whom His Majesty esteems worthy Objects of His *Gracious Compassion*, or *Princely Munificence*.

BRIBERY or CORRUPTION is loudly exclaimed against ; and it is certain, nothing can be more detestable to an upright Mind ; nor is any open Force likely to be so dangerous to the *Politick Body*, in regard the Vitals may be gnawn thro' before we apprehend an Attack from this secret and subtle Enemy. The Declamations made to you on this Head, ought to inspire a proper Abhorrence of the *Practice* ; and so far they are useful and commendable.

But this is not all that is wanted from you. If these Harrangues carry their intended Force, you must conceit yourselves *desperately sick*, tho' never in greater *Vigour* ; and suspect, nay, take it for certain, that every one who is employed in the *Preservation* and *Encrease* of your *Happiness*, hath taken *Wages* to *destroy* it. If you can be prevailed on to think thus ; these *fancied Enemies* will have very little Power of doing you good ; the Distrust will be almost as prejudicial to your Interest, as if
your

your *Friends* were really what you *mistake* them for. This *Misunderstanding* is the Point laboured at. Why is no single Instance *proved* of the Exercise of this abominable Instrument of *Slavery* and *Ruin*, by the *Ministry*? I hope it is not made use of by *Those* who take much Pains to shew us how very intimately *They* understand its *Prevalency*; and seem to think it *irresistable*: God and *His Majesty* be praised, there is no Occasion for it any where else. Men who discharge their Duty to *King* and *Country*, may sometimes meet *Rewards*; but we pervert the Use of Words, when we talk of *Bribing* or *Corrupting* a Person to *do as he ought*.

The *Slanderers* of the *Ministry* are not ignorant how easily SCANDAL works on the best-natured of us; and as they can get no Credit by quarreling with *particular Facts*, their Business is to deal in *Generals*; to put us out of Humour with *everything*, by representing the *worst* which Fancy can suggest, and then vouching it to be *our Case*.

To advance this *just* and *wholesome Design*, you shall sometimes have a SEJANUS, WOLSEY, COSCIA, or other *Prime-Minister*, who is deemed *Villainous* enough for the Purpose, painted at full length, and hung up to publick View; and this *hideous Picture* they have the Front to swear to you, that some *Gentleman* in the *Administration* sate for; and that two *Peas* are not so alike.

At another time, to your great Edification, you shall be made laugh at a *Puppet*. They are pleased to present you with, dressed in a
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Fool's Coat of the most *ridiculous Cut* ; and equipt with an enormous Pair of *Ass's Ears* ; and *this* is to pass upon you for *Mr. such a One*.

HISTORY is invidiously ransack'd for Instances of *People* distressed, or enslaved, by *Tyrannical, Ambitious or Weak Princes*, and a *Miscreant Ministry*. These are sent among you, with some *bold Strokes*, directing you to stretch your Imagination, and suppose a Parallel. But as you can by no means find any Circumstances in your happy State, which have the smallest Resemblance of the dreadful Scene ; pray, be at least so kind as to suppose it *possible* to be one Day your own Case ; — Proceed then, to conceit it *probable*, if you can ; — and when the Delusion is carried thus far, your *good Friends* are ready at Hand to vouch, that every Man of you hath a *Yoke* upon his Neck, and *Wooden Shoes* on his Feet. You will not, sure, ungratefully distrust Their *Veracity*, and, like Infidels, pretend to *see* and *feel* for yourselves. Alas ! If you cannot be made *discontented*, before there shall be just Occasion for it ; these *unhappy Men* must never enjoy one Moment's *Heart's Ease*, to recompence all the Pains they have bestowed on you ; but precipitately sink into *Obscurity* or *Infamy*. Have, therefore, some Compassion on *Them*, my *Countrymen*, whatever it may cost you, and *Posterity*.

We have seen Men *mad* and *virulent* enough to insinuate, in Terms I am ashamed to repeat, that a *Great King* hath changed Station with

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His *Minister*; and thereby, instead of being served by him, is *Himself* become a *Slave of the first Magnitude*, &c. This Scene is so decorated (if I may speak improperly) and the *Regal Office* so abominably vilified, in the *Craftsman* of the 17th of *January* last, by Methods, which any *impudent Person*, who can scribble, may use toward the *Most Glorious Monarch*, and *Faithful Ministry*; that I cannot omit a short Observation thereon, viz.

It must be Matter of great Grief, to a *Good Minister*, and to every *Good Subject*, that such detestable Aspersions should be thrown on *His Majesty*, as the Suppositions in that most insolent Libel carry with them: But, on the other Hand, one may congratulate the *Ministry*, that their *Enemies*, in order to abuse Them, are driven to attack a *sacred Character*, whose *Wisdom* is too exalted to receive the least Profanation, from the Calumny of *inconsiderate, raving Men*, who, I'm afraid, to gain their Point, would be *Republicans, Jacobites*, or worse; nay, make every whit as free with their *Maker* as their *Monarch*.

I wish it were not true that the most *sacred Things*, as well as *Characters*, may be set in such Lights, and so glossed upon, and traduced, as to become Objects of *Ridicule and Contempt*, among those who can content themselves with such Appearances as they chance to meet with, and go no farther. *Wit*, nay, *Buffoonery*, may strike and fill the *Fancy* so pleasingly, that the *Judgment* shall remain quite idle; indeed, it hath seldom sufficient

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Authority where the *Imagination* is very lively; but if we intend to think and act *rationally*, this *grave Counsellor* must be consulted. We may, perhaps, *laugh less*, but it will be oftner in the *right Place*.

What *base*, what *wretched Practices* are those I have mentioned, and many others we have seen, against the *Ministry*? The *Wiseſt* and *moſt Upright* on *Earth*; nay, One from *Above*, may be ſlandered, and *diſliked* too, unleſs their *Actions* are well examined; and permitted to ſpeak for *Them*. In order to prevent this, every Species of *Scandal* and *Abuſe*, both of ancient and modern *Invention*, is ſpread about, to amuſe weak and giddy Minds, and divert them from a *calm, unprejudiced Enquiry*, which would ſoon detect the *Cheat*, and render all the great Schemes for *Confuſion* abortive: For, ſhould the *Patriot* be diſcerned a *Bite*, all farther Opportunities of *Miſchief* are irrecoverably loſt, as to *Him*; which muſt be, certainly, the moſt horrible Situation imaginable, for an *envious, implacable, buſy Man*.

ENVY and HATRED are very ill Qualifications for *State Criticks*. Theſe powerful Motives too often blind the Criticks themſelves; but they never fail of making Them represent Things quite awry to other Spectators. *Paciſick Meaſures* will be diſapproved — *War* would occaſion dreadful Outcries of our *Debts* on that Score, and the Impoſſibility of ſupporting ourſelves under an *additional Load*. In ſhort, nothing will be admitted

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right,

right, whilst the *avowed Objects of Men's Fury* must engross the *Glory of It*. The Sense of any Part of our *Legislature*; nay, the Sanction of the Whole, is of far too little Authority to ballance the Opinion of a *few private Men*, if you can take their own *Modest Word* for it. They can enter into every Reason of State; and They only can determine what is *best* — The most Arduous Points are Trifles. As *Shakespeare* says,

Turn Them to any Cause of Policy,
The Gordian Knot of it They will unloose,
Familiar as Their Garters.

It must be admitted, that They have been very widely mistaken in *Prognostication*, notwithstanding their great Boasts of Foresight: But, if Things have happened *better* than They wished, you must not blame the *Partis*; but rather attribute it to your own Incredulity: For, could They have persuaded you, *My Countrymen*, that their *Oracles* were true, your *erroneous Conduct* might, probably, have *verified* Them; whereby the Deceit would have been perpetuated; and the successful *Wizards* had obtained their Ends, and Ruled us despotically.

Great Pretenders should be distrusted. Quacks in Politicks, like their Brethren in Physick, affect a mighty Concern for the Publick. Their Packets must grow mouldy on their Hands, unless They, and their Toad-Eaters, can impose a Belief on you, that the

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Colledge of Physicians are *Dunces*, or worse; and that these *Seventh Sons*, and *unborn Doctors*, are the only Persons who can cure you of more Disorders than ever you had.

The *Ribaldry* of these *Enthusiasts* hath been little regarded by their *Superiors*; whose Contempt has so highly exasperated *Them*, that They have offered all imaginable Provocation to make *Themselves* taken Notice of in an exemplary Way. But Happily, for *Them*, They only move Pity, where they court Indignation. Their own Madness and Folly must destroy *Them*. For, unless their *unbridled Rage* becomes dangerous to their *Country*, one may dare to conclude, from what hath been passed by with Impunity, that *His Most Gracious Majesty's* Wisdom, and unexampled Clemency, will give *Them* Opportunity of Repentance and Amendment. What else could shield *Them*? Alas! not their Subterfuges of Allegory — The Cobweb Vails thrown over their glaring Libels — Nor the childish Quibbling and Evasion, that They speak of other Times and Persons than the present. They take care that every Reader shall clearly see their Meaning; but Justice, and those concerned in the Administration of it, must be totally blind. I wish these poor Men the Recovery of their Integrity and right Wits; (if they ever had any) for really, at present, They are a Burlesque on Patriotism.

If any Persons, zealous for *His Majesty's* Glory, and the Happiness of His People, take the Part of Truth, and endeavour to set controverted Facts

in a just Light ; you shall presently be told, They are *Hirelings of the Ministry*, whose Interest it is to tell you *Lies* — If you believe a Word They say, you are undone. — That if you will be safe in reading Them, the proper Antidote is to suppose every thing the reverse of what They advance. One would think this *Proposition* argues a *Rottenness* in the Cause. Are the *Patriots* in the Right, and cannot They stand the Test of *Impartial Reasoning* ; and meet Their *Opposers* with *Temper* and *Decency* ? No, if These Men have a *fair Hearing*, it is too sure, They will be believed. Truth, duly considered, carries *Conviction* with it.

A *flavish Attachment* to the Dictates of any Party is, in effect, abandoning our *Reason*, and with it our *Interest*, to the Disposal of Lords we are pleased to set over us ; and I don't know why it should be supposed They will not make Their own Advantage of our *Vassalage*.

It is not my purpose to recapitulate, or answer, any of the *particular Charges* on the *Ministry*, which, indeed, seem to be so many *Reflections* on the *Legislature*, and *Quarrels* with our *happy Constitution* ; Persons abundantly more able have done this. I would only invite to a *calm, unprejudiced, and rational Consideration*, of what hath been done and said on both Sides ; and have, for that good End, endeavoured to remove such *general and popular Obstacles* as principally occurred to me, and which have, in my Apprehension, too much prevented a *proper Examination*. There is no great Mystery in this Affair : Plain, com-
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mon Sense, if duly attended to, will be sufficient for our Guide.

LIBERTY is an inestimable *Blessing*. I know no *Equivalent* for it. Our *Fortunes* and *best Blood* should be always ready, and cannot be so well spent as in its Defence and Preservation. BRITONS have not only an *hereditary Right* to it; but also the best *legal Title* which can be made to their PROPERTY, viz. *Acts of Parliament*. The *Bounds* of it are so minutely and indelibly marked out, that the least *Encroachment* must be *obvious*.

PREROGATIVE, which, whilst it remained *undefined*, was likewise *unlimited*, is now so wisely adjusted, as to become the *Barrier* of LIBERTY, against ANARCHY and CONFUSION. The *Happiness* of our *Constitution* depends on the *religious Preservation* of all the *just and established Rights* of Governor and Governed. We deceive ourselves, when we imagine that an *Infringement* can be made on *Either* without Damage to *Both*.

If these Things are true; as we cannot be too watchful over our LIBERTIES, so it equally concerns us to guard against *Unreasonable Jealousies* of the *Encrease*, or *Misuse* of PREROGATIVE.

The MINISTERS of a *King of Great Britain*, are also the SERVANTS of His *People*; and responsible to *Both*, for BREACH OF TRUST, or MISMANAGEMENT. The same *Prudence* which directs *private Persons*, will, I humbly presume, suit the *Publick*—Have Proof of *One* of these *Particulars*, at least; 'tis then soon enough
to

to think of *Dismission*, or *Punishment*: But if *Malicious*, or *Envious Calumny* passes for *Evidence*, the most *Able*, *Faithful*, and *Experienced Servants*, may be laid aside, with very slender *Encouragement* for other like to Succeed *Them*.

It is our *Glory*, that the *highest Offender* is not above the *Reach* of our *Laws*: But, until *Crimes* are *proved*, it will well become every one who values his own *Reputation*, to reflect, that the most *just* and *meritorious* Man is not secure from many bad *Effects* of *Slander*, unless he be *impartially heard*.

TO CONCLUDE. It matters not, *my Countrymen*, from what *Quarter* *TRUTH* comes—Whether the *Writer* be *in Place*, or *Out*.—It is not confined to any *Party*, or *particular Man*, notwithstanding the *Pretences* of the *POPE* and the *PATRIOTS* to the contrary. The only certain way of attaining it, in *Politicks*, is to *inquire disinterestedly*, and without *Passion* or *Prejudice*.

Being conscious that I have made an *APOLOGY* for *Those* who want *One* much less than *myself*, for the *Liberty* I have taken, I beg *Their Pardon*. I am also an *humble Petitioner* to the *Publick*, that *They* will excuse my mean *Endeavours* for *Their Service*.

F I N I S.

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To Correct ...
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 Page 3. Line the last but three, for *grew*, read *grow*. P. 7. l. 10.
 add a Colon after *it*. P. 8. l. 21. for *Oppression*, P. *Oppressive*.
 P. 15. l. the last, for *Mankind*, r. *Men*.

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